

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

-v.-

RAFAT AMIROV,  
a/k/a "Farkhaddin Mirzoev,"  
a/k/a "РИМ,"  
a/k/a "Rome,"  
POLAD OMAROV,  
a/k/a "Araz Aliyev,"  
a/k/a "Novruz Novruzzade,"  
a/k/a "Polad Qaqa,"  
a/k/a "Haci Qaqa," and  
ZIALAT MAMEDOV,  
a/k/a "Ziko,"  
a/k/a "Ruslan Novruzzade,"

Defendants.

S7 22 Cr. 438 (CM)

PROTECTIVE ORDER  
WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN  
DISCOVERY

McMAHON, D.J.:

This matter came before the Court on the Government's motion ("Government Motion"), memorandum, exhibits, and the declarations of various Government officials, which were filed *ex parte, in camera*, and through the Classified Information Security Officer on October 8, 2024 (collectively, the "Government Submission").

The Government Submission sought a protective order, pursuant to Section 4 of the Classified Information Procedures Act ("CIPA") and Rule 16(d)(1) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, regarding disclosure of certain information. After *ex parte, in camera* consideration of the Government Submission, this Court finds:

1. That the Government Submission contains and describes classified information that requires protection against unauthorized disclosure. That information is described with particularity in the Government Submission.

2. The head(s) of the department(s) that have control of the classified information described in the Government Submission, after actual personal consideration, have lodged the state secrets privilege with respect to that classified information.

Deleted Classified Material

3. Disclosure of the “Deleted Classified Material”—as that term is defined on page 5 of the Government Motion—to the defense or the public could reasonably be expected to cause serious or exceptionally grave damage to the national security.

4. The Deleted Classified Material is not discoverable under *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963), and its progeny, or Rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. In addition, the Deleted Classified Material is not helpful to the defense, that is, useful to counter the Government’s case or bolster a defense, as required under *United States v. Aref*, 533 F.3d 72, 78 (2d Cir. 2008).

Substituted Classified Material

5. Disclosure of the “Substituted Classified Material”—as that term is defined on page 5 of the Government Motion—to the defense or the public could reasonably be expected to cause serious damage to the national security.

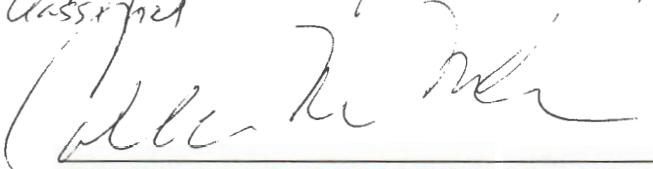
6. The proposed substitutions—as contained in Appendix A to Exhibit B to the Government Motion—provide the defendant with substantially the same ability to make his defense as would disclosure of the Substituted Classified Material.

Accordingly, it is:

ORDERED that the Government Motion is granted, and the Deleted Classified Material, as defined in the Government Motion and described herein, need not be disclosed to the defense; and it is further

ORDERED that the Government shall produce to defense counsel the proposed substitutions described herein; and it is further

ORDERED that the Government Submission is hereby sealed, and shall remain preserved in the custody of the Classified Information Security Officer, in accordance with established court security procedures, until further order of this Court.

SO ORDERED in Chambers this 26 day of November, 2024.  
in 500 Pearl St, Secure ~~Government~~ Information Facility  
Classified  


THE HONORABLE COLLEEN McMAHON  
United States District Judge  
Southern District of New York